



August - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the first-ever commercial sea export of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana from Bihar to Australia.
 - Mithila Makhana, an aquatic fox nut, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2022 and is mainly produced in Bihar's Mithila region.
- ❖ The 11th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting concluded in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, with the adoption of the Bhopal Declaration.
 - The Bhopal Declaration records the common commitments of BRICS countries on culture and creative sectors.
- ❖ The E-Samudra digital platform was launched in Mumbai to digitise maritime governance in India.
 - It works as a single digital window for seafarers, shipping companies and ports, integrating more than 72 services.
- ❖ Prakriti Gyan Dham, the first eco-educational centre of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), was inaugurated in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
 - It was developed at the Maharishi Parashar Bioresource Centre, Banthra, to promote biodiversity conservation, environmental education and India's botanical heritage.
- ❖ Scientists have identified *Russula griseopurpurata*, a new mushroom species at Jirang in Ri Bhoi district, Meghalaya.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

T.N. Anti-Narcotics Task Force

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has created an Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) with ₹264 crore to strengthen action against drug-related crimes across the State.
- ❖ 65 ANTF units will be established across Tamil Nadu, with dedicated police stations headed by Police Inspectors.
- ❖ The force will be headed by an officer in the rank of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) and will have intelligence, cyber surveillance, financial investigation and prosecution teams.
- ❖ A 24/7 control room will be established at the ANTF headquarters in Chennai for statewide coordination and intelligence sharing.

- ❖ The force will focus on drug smuggling, illegal sale and abuse of narcotic drugs, along with awareness, rehabilitation and human-wildlife—correction: drug prevention activities.

TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT ORDERS
65 ANTI-NARCOTICS
TASK FORCE (ANTF) UNITS
ACROSS THE STATE!

 **A MAJOR PUSH TO STRENGTHEN DRUG PREVENTION, INTELLIGENCE, INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACROSS TAMIL NADU.**

 ₹264 CRORE ALLOCATED FOR THE INITIATIVE	 454 POSTS SANCTIONED FOR THE ANTF HQ	 1,625 PERSONNEL FOR FIELD-LEVEL ANTF UNITS	 65 UNITS DEDICATED UNITS ACROSS TAMIL NADU
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NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court Gender-Sensitive Judgment Report



Supreme Court's Gender Handbook: Words Judges Should Stop Using in Judgments

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India released 'Judgments and Gender: Sensitivity and Compassion in Writing Judgments', replacing the 2023 Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes.

- ❖ The report recommends replacing the term 'prosecutrix' with neutral terms such as victim, survivor or complainant.
- ❖ It asks courts to avoid moralistic language, victim-blaming and irrelevant questions about a survivor's past sexual history.
- ❖ It recommends a trauma-informed approach, respectful treatment of witnesses and protection of survivors' dignity and privacy.
- ❖ It also promotes the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) framework for inclusive judicial language.

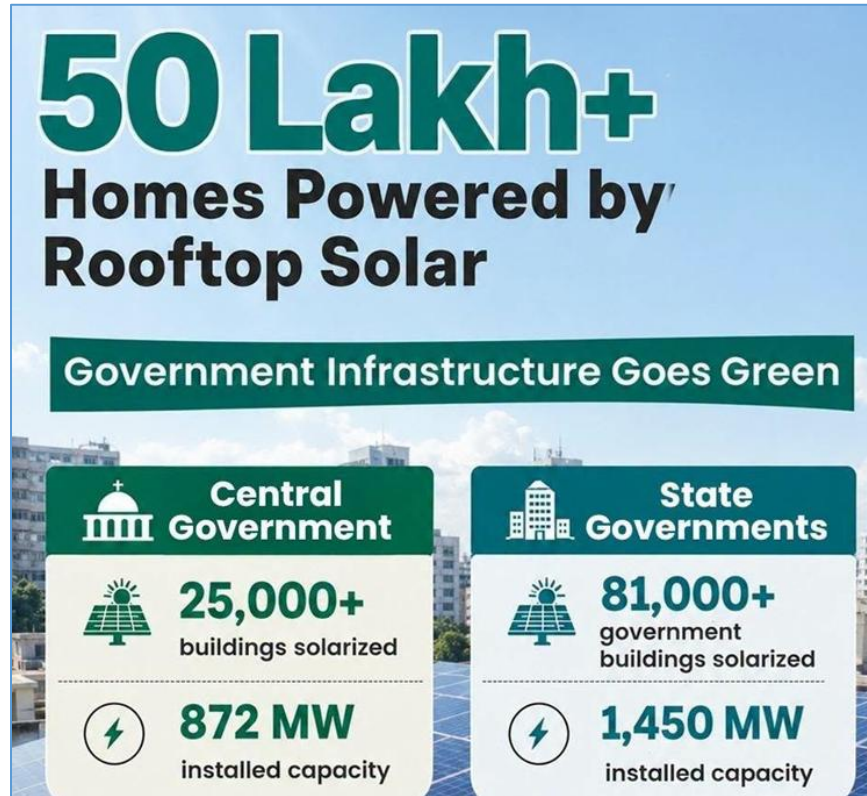
Rules on Digital Arrest Scams



- ❖ The Supreme Court of India directed the RBI to frame SOPs for mule accounts and ordered nationwide adoption of e-Zero FIRs and victim compensation frameworks to tackle escalating digital arrest scams.
- ❖ It passed the directions after considering the fourth status report submitted by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Union Home Ministry.
- ❖ It also asked the Centre to examine the feasibility of introducing a shared liability and victim compensation framework for people who fall prey to digital arrest scams.

- ❖ Among its key directions, the court asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to frame within four weeks a standard operating procedure (SOP) for dealing with mule bank accounts used to launder proceeds of cyber fraud.

50 lakh rooftop solar installations



- ❖ Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said that the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana has crossed 50 lakh beneficiary households in India.
- ❖ This scheme seeks to provide free electricity to households by facilitating the installation of rooftop solar panels.
- ❖ It aims to provide up to 300 units of free monthly electricity and direct financial subsidies of up to ₹78,000 for residential households to install rooftop solar panels.
- ❖ The scheme closes on March 31, 2027.
- ❖ It is the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative.
- ❖ It is a central sector scheme, implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and launched in 2024.
- ❖ India added non-fossil capacity of more than 300 gigawatts (GW) a decade ago.
- ❖ India is well on the path to achieve the target of 500 gigawatts by 2030.

- ❖ India's installed solar power capacity stood at 162.15 GW as of June 30.
- ❖ It is inclusive of 125.6 GW of utility scale projects, 30.11 GW of rooftop projects and 6.43 GW of off-grid projects.
- ❖ India is the world's second-largest steel producer.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Birthright Citizenship - U.S.



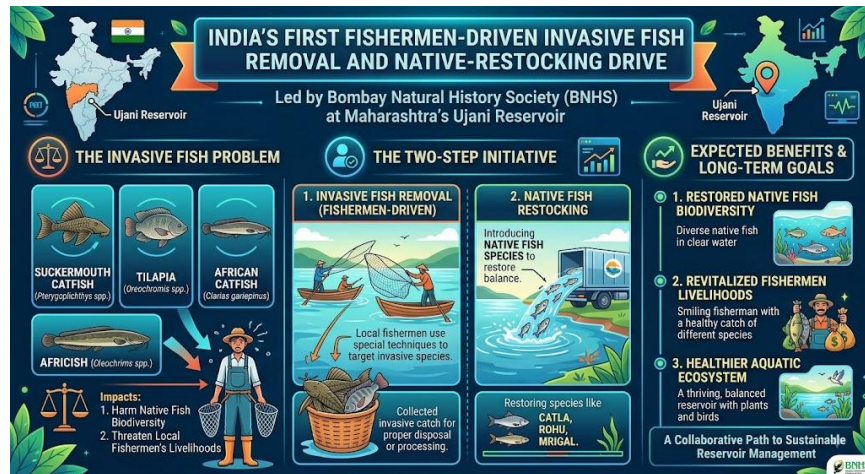
- ❖ U.S. President Donald Trump signed two executive orders on August 6, 2026, to limit birth right citizenship in the United States.
- ❖ The orders target “birth tourism”, where pregnant foreign nationals travel to the U.S. to give birth so their children can obtain U.S. citizenship.
- ❖ They also seek to limit citizenship rights for children born to foreign government employees and people classified as alien enemies.
- ❖ The move follows the U.S. Supreme Court's 6–3 ruling on June 30, 2026, which rejected Trump's earlier attempt to restrict birth right citizenship.

- ❖ Birth right citizenship is linked to the 14th Amendment, whose Citizenship Clause grants citizenship to persons born or naturalized in the U.S. and subject to its jurisdiction.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

India's First Fish Removal Drive

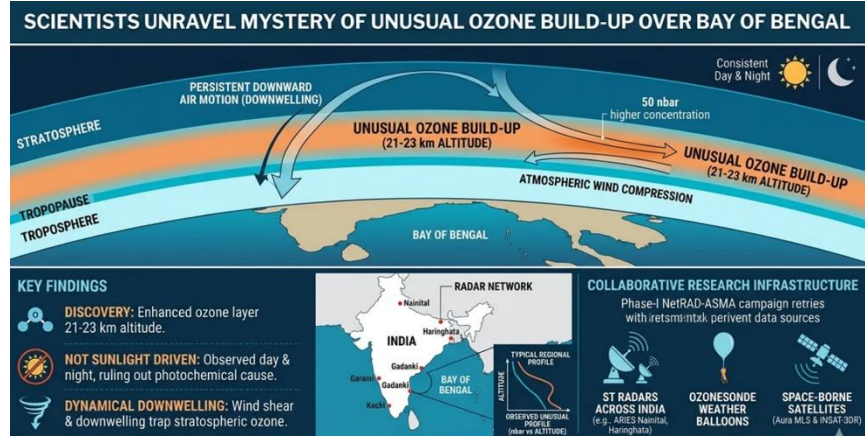
- ❖ The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has launched India's first fishermen-driven invasive fish removal and native-restocking programme at Maharashtra's Ujani Reservoir.
- ❖ The programme targets invasive suckermouth catfish, Tilapia and African catfish.
- ❖ These alien fish have affected native fish biodiversity and local fishermen's livelihoods.
- ❖ The initiative involves removing invasive fish and restoring native fish species in the reservoir.



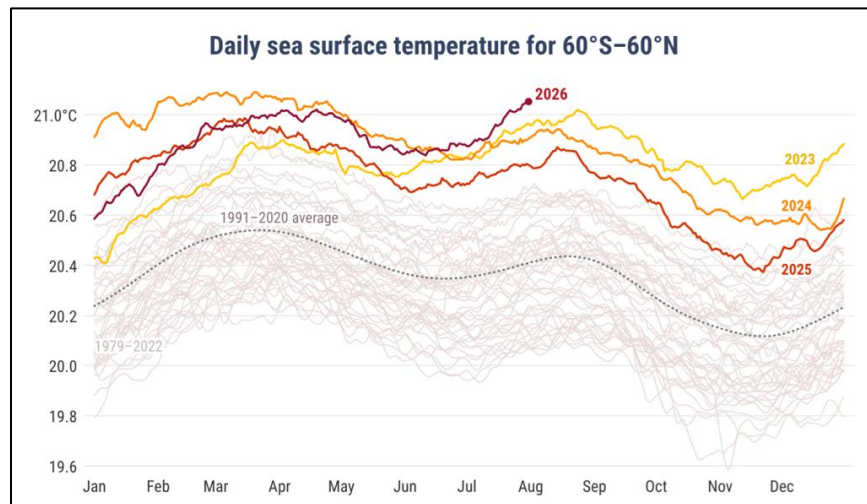
Ozone Anomaly Over Bay of Bengal

- ❖ Scientists detected an unusually thick ozone layer at 21–23 km altitude over the North Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The ozone concentration was much higher than normal over eastern India, and the layer remained for more than 24 hours.
- ❖ Scientists from ARIES (Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences), Nainital, and other Indian institutions studied the event under the Phase-I NetRAD-ASMA campaign.
- ❖ The study used 206.5 MHz Stratosphere-Troposphere (ST) Radars, weather balloons, satellites and atmospheric models.

- ❖ Observations showed persistent downward air movement in the lower stratosphere and transport of ozone-rich air.
- ❖ Scientists concluded that horizontal ozone transport, downward movement and compression of air mainly caused the unusual ozone enhancement.



Global Ocean Temperatures – 2026 July



- ❖ Global sea surface temperatures (SST) outside the polar regions reached a record high in July 2026.
- ❖ The average SST between 60°N and 60°S was 20.96°C, surpassing the previous July record of 20.89°C in 2023.
- ❖ El Niño conditions in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean are strengthening rapidly and are contributing to the high ocean temperatures.
- ❖ July 2026 was the second-warmest globally, with an average surface air temperature of 16.90°C.

- ❖ Western Europe recorded its warmest June–July period, along with heatwaves, dry conditions and wildfires.
- ❖ Western Europe also recorded very low surface soil moisture, while drier conditions affected parts of Canada, the United States, Africa, Asia and South America.

Meghalaya's mission on Clouded Leopard



- ❖ Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma launched Mission Clouded Leopard.
- ❖ It aims to protect the state animal, the mainland clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*).
- ❖ It is distinct from the Sunda clouded leopard, which is found on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra.
- ❖ The mainland clouded leopard is listed as “vulnerable” on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ Its global range includes Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, and parts of northeast India.
- ❖ In contrast, populations in Bangladesh, Vietnam, and large parts of China have undergone severe declines.
- ❖ It is locally extinct in Singapore and Taiwan.

- ❖ In India, it occurs in the states of Sikkim, northern West Bengal, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, as well as in the Meghalaya subtropical forests.

STATE NEWS

Ladakh's Census 2027

- ❖ Ladakh will begin the second phase of Census 2027 on August 17, 2026, and will be among the first areas to record caste details.
- ❖ The Census form is likely to have around 40 questions, including an open-ended column for respondents to state their caste.
- ❖ Ladakh will use paper schedules for some areas because defence structures near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) cannot be geo-tagged due to security concerns.
- ❖ Self-enumeration will be available from August 17 to 31, followed by house-to-house population enumeration.
- ❖ The caste data will be collected by recording the caste name as declared by the respondent.
- ❖ The snow-bound areas of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand will conduct enumeration ahead of the rest of India.

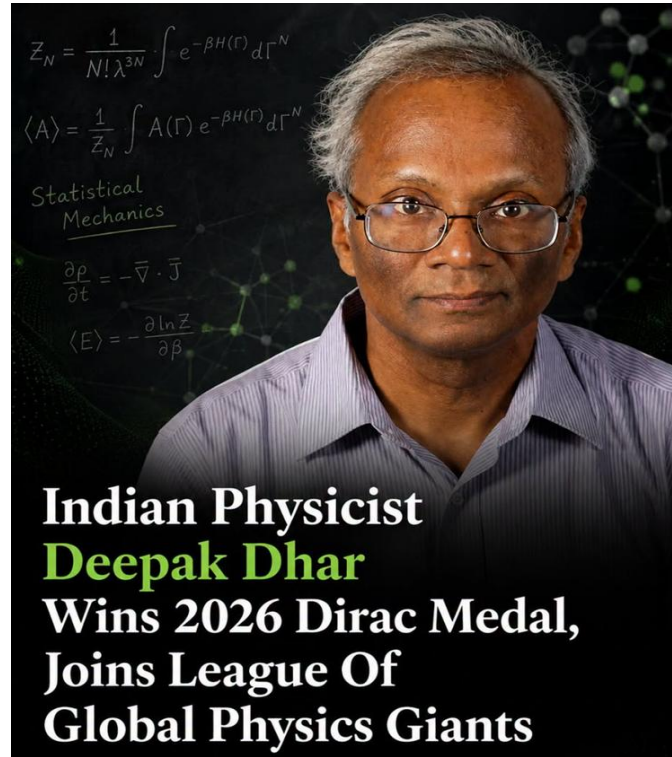


PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Dirac Medal 2026

- ❖ Indian physicist Deepak Dhar has been named a co-recipient of the 2026 Dirac Medal, one of the highest honours in theoretical physics.

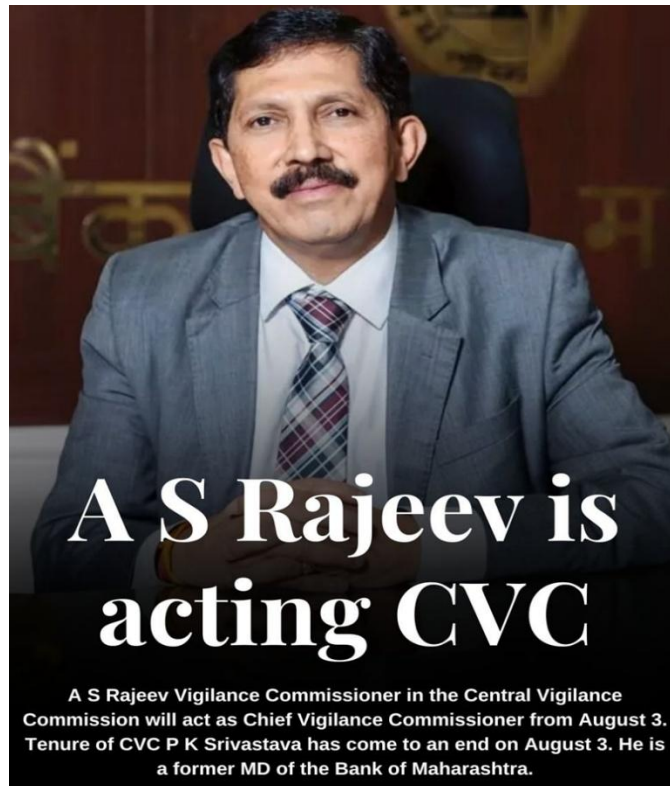
- ❖ The medal was instituted in 1985 by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Italy.
- ❖ Dhar became the first Indian to receive the Boltzmann Medal in 2022.
- ❖ He is now among only 10 people to have received both the Dirac and Boltzmann Medals.
- ❖ His research studies how simple interactions can produce complex behaviour in large systems.



A. S. Rajeev - Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner

- ❖ The President of India authorized Vigilance Commissioner A. S. Rajeev to act as the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).
- ❖ He succeeded Praveen Kumar Srivastava, whose tenure ended on that date.
- ❖ A notification from the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions was issued in this regard.
- ❖ Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was set up as an executive body by the Government of India Resolution on 11 February 1964.
- ❖ It was on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by K. Santhanam.
- ❖ It aims to address governmental corruption.

- ❖ In 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC. It has the status of an autonomous body, free of control from any executive authority.
- ❖ It was charged with monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government of India, advising various authorities in central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing, and reforming their vigilance work.
- ❖ The CVC is not an investigating agency: the only investigation carried out by the CVC is that of examining Civil Works of the Government.

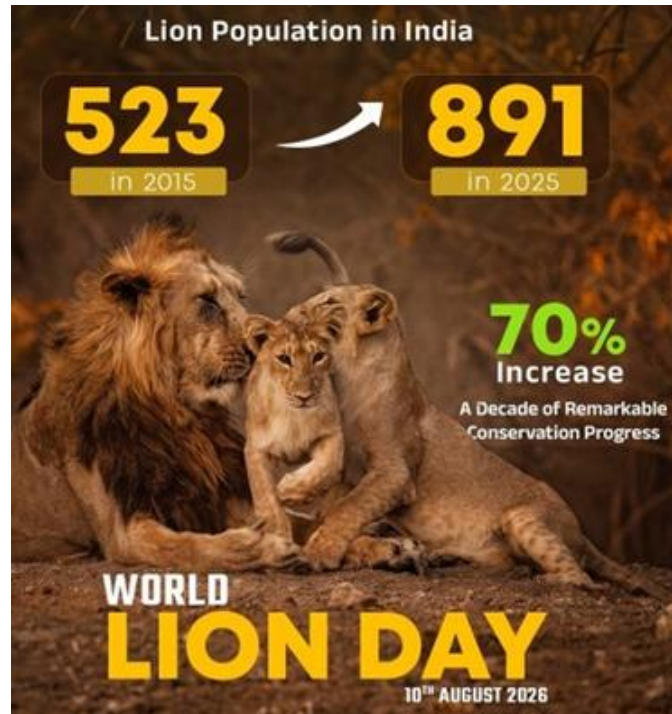


IMPORTANT DAYS

World Lion Day 2026 - August 10

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about lion conservation and threats such as habitat loss, poaching and human-wildlife conflict.
- ❖ Lions are apex predators that help control prey populations and maintain the balance of ecosystems.
- ❖ India is home to the world's remaining wild Asiatic lions, mainly found in the Gir landscape of Gujarat.

- ❖ India launched Project Lion in 2020 to conserve Asiatic lions through habitat management, population monitoring, research and human-wildlife conflict reduction.
- ❖ Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat is being developed as an additional habitat to reduce the risk of having the lion population concentrated in one landscape.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Quit India Movement Day 2026

- ❖ Quit India Movement Day is observed every year on August 8 to remember the launch of the Quit India Movement (Bharat Chhodo Andolan) in 1942.
- ❖ The movement was launched on August 8, 1942, at Gowalia Tank Maidan, Bombay (now Mumbai), during the All India Congress Committee (AICC) session.
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi led the movement and gave the famous “Do or Die” call to demand an immediate end to British rule.
- ❖ The movement was mainly triggered by the failure of the Cripps Mission (1942) and growing opposition to British rule during World War II.
- ❖ Gandhi and other Congress leaders were arrested on August 9, 1942, but students, workers, farmers and women continued protests and underground activities.

- ❖ The movement was suppressed by the British but became an important turning point in India's freedom struggle and strengthened the path towards Independence in 1947.

